

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1–6. These sheets will replace the originally filed sheets with Figs. 1–6. In Figs. 1 and 6, a projection and the corresponding reference numeral 92 have been added. In Figs. 2–5, a first switch and corresponding reference numeral 15 have been added.

Attachment: (4) Replacement sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this amendment, claims 13, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24 and 28 have been amended, claims 17 and 20 have been canceled, and claim 29 has been added. Accordingly, claims 13–16, 18–19, and 21–29 are currently pending in this application. It is submitted that the amendments made to claims 13, 16, 21, 23, 24, 28 are not made for reasons substantially related to patentability.

Further by this Amendment, the Specification has been amended to make a minor editorial amendment. It is submitted that no new matter has been added.

Applicants would like to thank Primary Examiner Anh T. N. Vo for conducting a personal interview with Applicants' representatives on July 17, 2006 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. During the personal interview, Applicants' representatives presented a proposed amendment and arguments traversing the Examiner's rejections and distinguishing the claims over the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner. As reflected in the Interview Summary Form (PTO-413), the Examiner agreed with the arguments presented during the personal interview for distinguishing the pending claims over the prior art of record. Provided next is a "Statement of the Substance of the Interview" including remarks presented during the personal interview for distinguishing the claims over the prior art of record.

Initially, it is noted that the Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reasons contained on page 2 of the Office Action. Particularly, the Examiner has asserted that the claimed features of "a claw position detecting part" and "second device" are not shown in the drawings.

With respect to "a claw position detecting part," submitted herewith is a drawing Amendment to include a switch 15 in each of Figs. 2–5 as one embodiment of "a claw position detecting part" described on page 37, line 19 to page 38, line 8 of the specification. With respect to the "second device," submitted herewith is a Drawing Amendment to include a projection 92

in each of Figs. 1 & 6 as one embodiment of the “second device” described in the specification on page 30, lines 3-14 and on page 44, line 21 to page 45, line 7. Accordingly, it is submitted that the drawings are in proper form and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated, on page 7 of the Office Action, that dependent claim 20 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, without intending to acquiesce to the Examiner’s prior art rejection, the allowable features of dependent claim 20 have been incorporated into independent claim 18 by this Amendment. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 18 is allowable.

It is further noted that newly added independent claim 29 has been drafted to include similar features as contained in independent claim 13 and to include the allowable feature of “a determining part operable to provide information of incorrect insertion when the insertion of the cartridge is not in a correct orientation” as previously contained in allowable dependent claim 20. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 29 is also allowable.

Next, it is noted that the Examiner has rejected independent claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura (USPN: 5,577,014) for the reason contained on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Moreover, the Examiner has rejected independent claims 13 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sasaki et al. (USPN: 6,512,653) for the reason contained on pages 4-5 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s aforementioned prior art rejection and submits that the prior art references, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the features claimed in each of independent claims 13, 21 and 29 of the present application.

According to one illustrative embodiment of the present application, a device for preventing an incorrect insertion of a cartridge into a cartridge storage space comprises a claw

(14a) operable to protrude into the recessed part (3c) of the cartridge only when the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation (see Fig. 2), and a stopper (14b) operable to work with the claw (14a) such that when the claw (14a) protrudes into the recessed part (3c) of the cartridge, the stopper (14b) is disposed to allow the cartridge to be inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space (see Fig. 2), and when the claw (14a) does not protrude into the recessed part (3c) of the cartridge, the stopper (14b) is disposed to prevent the cartridge from being inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space (see Figs. 2–5).

By providing the aforementioned features, the device according to the aforementioned embodiment is able to prevent incorrect insertion of a cartridge into a cartridge storage space.

It is submitted that the aforementioned features contained within each of independent claims 13, 21 and 29 of the present application, as well as the advantages resultant therefrom, are not disclosed or suggested by the Kawamura or Sasaki et al. references for at least the following reasons.

Regarding the Kawamura reference, the Examiner has asserted on page 3 of the Office Action that this reference discloses “a claw (14) operable to protrude into the recessed part (3) or the through hole of the cartridge (1) only when the cartridge (1) is inserted into the cartridge storage space (10) in a correct orientation (Figs. 3A–3D).”

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s assertion is incorrect. Particularly, notch portions (3) provided on opposite sides of the rear end of the disk cartridge 1 are merely used for carrying the disk cartridge 1 and have no interaction with the projections 14 of the levers 11 [see column 1 (lines 18–20)]. Contrary and opposite to the presently claimed invention, the projections 14 provided on the levers 11 of the Kawamura device enter grooves 2 as shown in Figs. 2A–2E to prevent incorrect insertion of the cartridge [see Figs. 2A–2E and column 3 (lines 12–39) directed towards incorrect insertion]. Moreover, as clearly shown in Figs. 3A–3E

depicting correct insertion and as clearly described in column 3 (line 57) – column 4 (line 11), the levers 11 including projections 14 fall down as shown in Fig. 3E so that the disk cartridge can pass over the levers 11 and projections 14 for insertion into the carrying tray 10.

Next, the Examiner has asserted on page 4 of the Office Action that the Sasaki et al. device discloses the following: “...when said claw (4a) does not protrude into the recessed part (2) or the through hole of the cartridge (2), said stopper (4b) is disposed to prevent the cartridge from being inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space (Figs. 3 and 5).”

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s assertion is incorrect. It is noted that element 4(b) of the Sasaki et al. device is not a stopper but is actually an abutting section used for abutting and pushing the cassette 2 during insertion of the cassette 2 into a VCR 1 [see column 6 (lines 32–44)]. Particularly, during insertion of the cassette 2, Fig. 11 depicts a position at which the groove engaging sections 4a leave the grooves 2a of the cassette 2 [see Fig. 11 and column 6 (lines 32–38)]. Subsequently, as shown in Fig. 12, the abutting sections 4(b) then abut and push on the rear surface 2b of the cassette 2 for insertion [see Fig. 12 and column 6 (lines 38–44)]. Thus, contrary and opposite to the presently claimed invention, when the groove engaging sections 4a no longer protrude in the grooves 2a of the cassette 2, the abutting sections 4(b) are actually used to push the cassette 2 for insertion.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that Kawamura and Sasaki et al. references, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a claw operable to protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge only when the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation, and a stopper operable to work with the claw such that when the claw protrudes into the recessed part of the cartridge, the stopper is disposed to allow the cartridge to be inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space, and when the claw does not protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge, the stopper is disposed to prevent the

Appln. No. 10/798,774
Amdt. dated July 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated April 28, 2006

cartridge from being inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space, as recited in each of independent claims 13, 21 and 29 of the present application.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention as claimed in each of independent claims 13, 18, 21 and 29, as well as claims 14–16, 19, and 22–28 dependent thereon, is clearly allowable and the Examiner is kindly requested to now promptly pass this case to issuance.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36418.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: July 21, 2006